

English Martyrs' Newsletter



18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
2ND AUGUST 2026

ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC CHURCH,
64, LIEBENROOD ROAD, READING, RG30 2EB:
Registered Charity No. 1199568
Parish website: www.englishmartyrsrdg.com
Livestream link on You Tube:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCulqb5ncxASpguMmd_0MNtA

Parish Priest: Fr. Gaston Forbah gforbah@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Retired Priest: Fr. Richard Maniak
Secretary: Shyamalie McArthur. Tel: 0118 957 2149
Parish Office: CLOSED. REOPENS TUESDAY 18th AUGUST 9.00am.
All calls/emails are monitored. Email: office@englishmartyrsrdg.com

PARISH SAFEGUARDING MINISTERS/CONTACT DETAILS/ROLES

Gavin Knight: safeguarding2@englishmartyrsrdg.com (DBS applications/updating of DBS parish register)
Ernestina Amanfo: safeguarding3@englishmartyrsrdg.com (Safeguarding compliance in all parish activities)

SCHOOLS:		TO DONATE TO OUR PARISH:	
English Martyrs Catholic Primary Dee Road, Reading RG30 4BE. 0118 937 5466 Executive Headteacher: Mr Jamie Carroll Head of School: Mr Anton Dworzak https://www.englishmartyrs.reading.sch.uk/home		Parish Bank Details: A/C Name: CDP Reading English Martyrs. Sort Code: 30 – 93 – 04. Account No. 00885666 You can also use Direct Debit (forms available in colonnade), the Dona(te) machines in the colonnade and hall or by scanning the QR code on the right.	
Blessed Hugh Faringdon Fawley Road, Reading RG30 3EP. Head: Dr Simon Uttley 0118 957 4730 https://www.hughfaringdon.org/	MASS TIMES FROM Sunday 2 nd August Sunday at 9.00am; 11.30am; 5.00pm Monday to Thursday at 9.30am Friday at 9.30am and 6.45pm Saturday at 10.00am and 6.00pm (Vigil)	CONFESSIONS From Sunday 2 nd August Sunday 30 mins before 9.00am, 11.30am & 5.00pm Masses Monday to Friday 15 mins before Mass Saturday after 10am Mass and at 5.30pm.	
	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: On Friday from 10.00am to 5.00pm. Praise and Worship until 5:45pm then at 6.00pm The Angelus, Rosary and Benediction. Mass for Peace is at 6.45pm.		

BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY

The miracle of the feeding of the five thousand (Matthew 14:13–21) begins in a place of loss and desolation. Jesus has just heard of the death of John the Baptist and withdraws to be alone. Yet the crowds follow Him into the wilderness, bringing their own needs, hopes, and hunger. Moved with compassion, Our Lord does not turn them away. Instead, He reveals the generous heart of God, who never abandons His people and always provides what they truly need.

How often we, too, find ourselves in desolate places: moments of bereavement, anxiety, disappointment, or spiritual dryness. We can feel that what we have to offer is as small as the five loaves and two fish. Yet the Gospel reminds us that when we place our lives into the hands of Christ, however inadequate they may seem, He blesses, transforms, and makes it fruitful beyond our imagining.

This miracle also directs our gaze to the Eucharist. Jesus takes the bread, blesses it, breaks it, and gives it to the people, actions fulfilled perfectly at the Last Supper and renewed at every Holy Mass. In the Eucharist, Christ does not simply give us bread; He gives us Himself. The Bread of Life sustains us on our pilgrimage, strengthens us in times of trial, and gathers us into communion as His Body, the Church.

As we journey through our lives, may we never be afraid to bring our poverty to the altar. There, the Risen Lord meets us, fills our deepest hunger, and sends us forth to become signs of His compassion and hope for a world still searching for the true Bread that satisfies their hunger.

OUR PARISH ADMINISTRATOR, SHYAMALIE MCARTHUR IS ON ANNUAL LEAVE AND THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED UNTIL 18th AUGUST. PLEASE SEND IN YOUR EMAILS OR LEAVE A VOICE MESSAGE AND FR GASTON WILL ATTEND TO ANYTHING WHICH IS URGENT. SHYAMALIE WILL ATTEND TO THE REST ON HER RETURN.

To keep up to date with the news of the Diocese and the Bishop please follow us on: Facebook: @PortsmouthRC / LinkedIn: Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth / X (formerly Twitter): @PortsmouthRC / Diocesan website: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/>
If you have news that you want to share with the Diocese, please contact communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

PARISH NOTICES

If you are a newcomer to our Parish, we are delighted to have you join us.
Please, follow this link [New to Our Parish – English Martyrs Reading](#) for some helpful information.
Also, please make yourself known to one of our Welcomers at the back of the church after Mass.

Readings for:	18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (02/08)	19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (09/08)
	First: Isaiah 55; 1-3. Psalm: 145(144); 8-9.15-18. Second: Romans 8: 35. 37-39. Gospel: Matthew 14: 13-21.	First: 1 Kings 19.9a. 11-13a. Psalm: 85(84); 9ab. 10-14. Second: Romans 9. 1-5. Gospel: Matthew 14: 22-33.

	NAME BADGE SUNDAY Another opportunity to meet and greet fellow parishioners by name and develop a better sense of community within the parish.
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	PRAYER TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS: As part of our First Friday devotion on 7 th August, let us say together the prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus at 8:30pm. This can be done individually or as a family using either the cards we distributed or the online version on our website homepage.
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	EMMAUS GROUPS – HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING(S) WILL BE ON: Wednesday 5 th August at 10.30am in the Bethlehem Chapel.
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	TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE & FOODBANK We are supporting approximately 40 households with food and household products. generous donations. This week we are short of tinned corned beef/spam/hotdogs, baked beans, pot noodles, tea, sugar, peanut butter, shower gel, shampoo and washing up liquid. Financial donations can be made to CDP Reading St Joseph. Sort Code: 30-93-04. Account No: 00885992. Please include as a reference, 'Foodbank'. Many thanks.
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	BOOKSTALL UPDATE We will be changing our bookstall opening times from August 2 nd onwards. We will open as usual on Sunday mornings after the 9am Mass until approx. 11.10am and starting on August 2 nd we will also be open on the first and last Sundays of each month after the 5.00pm Sunday Mass. Sadly, we will not be able to open after the 6.00pm Saturday Vigil Mass. If you think you can help at the Vigil Mass or any other of our Masses, please contact Chris Coxwell at chris.coxwell@ntlworld.com
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THE LIFE OF MAN – ADOPTED CHILD OF GOD

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son as Redeemer and Saviour so that in his Son and through him, we are invited, in the the Holy Spirit, to be his adopted children and so heirs of his blessed life. (CCC 1)

ENCYCLICAL (MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS 52-53)

Human rights flow from the God-given dignity of every person, making them universal and inviolable. At their heart is the fundamental right to life, from conception to natural death. Respecting this dignity means building a society that places the flourishing of every person and family at the centre of its life and decisions.

BAPTISM PREPARATORY COURSES FOR 2026:

Please register your interest with the parish office. *Catechists: Tony Maina & Saffiatu Bangura*
There will be no sessions in August and next sessions will be in September and November 2026.
Attendance is compulsory prior to Baptism taking place.

BAPTISMS

- Baby Alicia will be baptised on Saturday 1st August at 11:30am.
- Baby Isabella will be baptised during the 11:30am Mass on Sunday August 2nd.

GOING INTO HOSPITAL: If you or a loved one are taken into hospital, please let the Catholic Chaplaincy know. Hospital staff are not allowed to ask you. Ring the hospital on 0118 322 7105 to let them know that you or your loved one would like a visit from a priest.

DBS DROP IN SESSION

Gavin Knight, our Safeguarding Representative, will be here on Sunday 2nd August in the Office from 9.45am - 12 midday only, to meet anyone who needs DBS checks.

Documents to bring: Passport, Driving Licence, Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or European Health Insurance card (EHIC). Council tax statement that has been sent to your home address which is for this current year. Bank statement/Utility Bill that has been sent to your home address and is less than 3 months old.

National Insurance number and addressees going back 5 years will also be required.

If you are unable to attend this drop-in session, you can contact Gavin Knight to arrange an appointment using the contact info on the front page of the newsletter. Dates for the next drop-in sessions will be announced later.



Rest In Peace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Mr Ernest Rodgers RIP, whose funeral will be on Tuesday 4th August at 11.30 am at English Martyrs.

Mr John Kearns RIP, whose funeral will be on Thursday 6th August at 12.45 pm at English Martyrs.

PARISH EVANGELISATION CELLS: WHY ARE THEY NEEDED

Many people today have little connection with the Church or have drifted away from faith. They are unlikely to encounter Christ unless someone they know reflects His love.

Parish Evangelisation Cells help create a culture where faith grows, friendships deepen and every Catholic is equipped for mission.

If you'd like to discover more, save the date for our Parish Evangelisation Envisioning Evening on 7:30pm on September 16th at St Joseph's Tilehurst. Together we'll explore how this simple vision has helped renew parishes around the world and what it could mean for our own parishes.

To find out more go to www.pecsengland.com

ALPHA FORUM FOR PARISHES IN PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE

MONDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER | 7:30 – 8:30PM | ONLINE

Has your parish run Alpha, or are you thinking about starting one? Join the Formation for Mission team for an online Alpha Forum designed to encourage, support, and connect parishes across the Diocese.

This informal gathering is an opportunity to share experiences, learn from one another, explore best practice, and discover fresh ideas for running Alpha in your parish.

To register for the meeting please go to <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/0TNBkTR7z8> or email ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. A link will be sent out nearer the time.

DIOCESAN CATECHIST DAY – PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE

SATURDAY 10th OCTOBER | 9:30AM–1:30PM | ST BEDE'S, BASINGSTOKE

Are you involved in passing on the faith in your parish? Join catechists from across the Diocese for a morning of prayer, inspiration, and practical formation as we reflect on our shared mission to form missionary disciples. Inspired by Jesus' words, *"Go therefore and make disciples..."* (Matthew 28:19), we will explore how catechists can lead others to Christ, hand on the living faith of the Church, accompany people in conversion, and help build vibrant missionary parishes. Whether you are an experienced catechist or new to the ministry, you are warmly invited to attend.

To register your interest please go to <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/RFGROzEzDh> or email Meghan, Formation for Mission Team Leader at ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING FOR ALL WHO NEED IT WILL BE RUN ON SATURDAY 22nd AUGUST FROM 1.00 PM TO 4.00 PM IN THE HALL.

CENTENARY YEAR PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: 10th to 14th AUGUST

Intentions to be taken to Lourdes can be placed in the basket at the front of the Altar and will be taken to the grotto in Lourdes.

MASS INTENTIONS: SATURDAY 1st TO SUNDAY 9th AUGUST 2026**18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday 1st (Sunday Vigil)	6.00pm	Leonarda Odulinska RIP Mention Norman Hayde RIP 70th birthday
Sunday 2nd	9.00am	People of the Parish Rugie Banguara RIP & Aminata RIP
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Christina Conneely RIP
	5.00pm	Leonarda Odulinska RIP
Monday 3rd	9.30am	Johnny Commins RIP
Tuesday 4th	9.30am	John Commins RIP
	11.30am	Funeral of Ernie Rodgers RIP
Wednesday 5th	9.30am	Olavo Do Rego RIP
Thursday 6th	9.30am	John Conroy RIP
	12.45pm	Funeral of John Kearns RIP.
Friday 7th	9.30am	John Commins RIP
	6.45pm	Emelda Lum RIP
Saturday 8th	10.00am	Johnny Commins RIP

19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 8th (Sunday Vigil)	6.00pm	Christina Conneely RIP Shirley and Nevil Joseph's 25th Wedding Anniversary
Sunday 9th	9.00am	People of the Parish
	11.30am <i>Live Streamed</i>	Edwin Thomas RIP
	5.00pm	Dickson & Roseline Fernandes Thanksgiving

GIFT AID DECLARATION FORMS:

We are grateful to those who have signed the new Gift Aid Forms but are still appealing to everyone to consider gift aiding your donations to the Church. This will yield a further 25% income for our parish when your taxes are paid. There are green forms in the Colonnade which can be filled in and put through the Parish Office letter box.

PROOFREADING OUR CENTENARY JOURNAL

We are almost ready to go to print with our centenary publication but before that happens we would be very grateful if some parishioners could help with reading a section (no more than 7/8 pages), to check for spelling and grammar. Pages can be collected from the parish office and would need to be returned there by Monday 10th August. Alternatively we can send you the pages via email.

CONFIRMATION 2028

Anyone wishing to be confirmed in 2028 will need to sign up by August 21st 2026. Weekly confirmation sessions will start in September 2026 for anyone who is in year 7 or above and wishes to be confirmed in 2028. Sign up forms are available in the colonnade and can be handed into the parish office.

RCIA/JOURNEY IN FAITH.

Journey in Faith will begin again in September. Anyone who is interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith, can speak to our parish priest or: contact the Parish Office at:

office@englishmartyrsrdg.com.

SAVE THE DATE: Our Parish Afro-Caribbean Community will celebrate Black History Month on Saturday 24th October at 7:15p.m in our Parish Hall. More details to follow.